January 30, 2009

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Fraternity annex burns

Nine students escape fire

The Daily Reflector

Friday, January 30, 2009

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The two-story annex of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity caught fire sometime before 6:30 a.m., according to witnesses and officials on the scene.

The students lost all their possessions, including books and computers, officials said.

One student suffered a minor injury. The rest were uninjured.

Greenville firefighters and East Carolina University officials were on the scene. Counselors were with students. The biggest concern now is their emotional state, said Linn Roeder, dean of students.

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**Fraternity annex burns**

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At least nine students escaped a burning fraternity house this morning, some by jumping from windows onto cars below.

The two-story annex of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity caught fire sometime before 6:30 a.m., according to witnesses and officials on the scene. The house is on Summit Street near Fifth Street across from ECU's main campus.

The students lost all their possessions, including books and computers, officials said. At least two cars parked outside the building were badly damaged.

One student suffered a minor injury. The rest were uninjured.

Greenville firefighters and East Carolina University officials remain on the scene. Counselors were with students. The biggest concern now is their emotional state, said Linn Roeder, dean of students.

No word on how the fire started. Flames lighted dark skys on campus earlier this morning as the fire engulfed the house. Smoke continued to drift through homes and buildings in the area.

The dean said some students jumped out of second-story windows onto cars below. One student had a second-degree burn on his knee and was treated for the injury, Roeder said.

An escape rope-ladder was present in the upper floor, officials said. It wasn't known if students tried to use it.

Ryan Bannack, 21, a sophomore, lives across the street from the home. He woke about about 6:20 a.m. and saw red light through the window, he said.

He said he felt heat through the window and "saw nothing but flames."

Fire blazed through first- and second-floor windows in the front and on the side of the annex house, he said.

Fraternity members stood outside the home and watched as it burned, he said.

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Ballard withdraws name from K-State search

The Daily Reflector

Thursday, January 29, 2009

East Carolina University Chancellor Steve Ballard has withdrawn his name from consideration for the presidency of Kansas State University.

A release from East Carolina University Thursday morning said Ballard will remain at East Carolina in the role he has held for nearly five years.

"The simplest reason is that Kansas State just didn't feel as good to me as ECU does," Ballard said in the release. "You always learn something interviewing for competitive positions, and this one reminded me what a great place ECU is and how much I like working with the people here."

Ballard, who was unavailable for further comment, was one of three finalists for the position in Manhattan, Kan. He visited Kansas State earlier this month to participate in a candidate open forum and meet with campus and community groups.

Prior to joining ECU, Ballard served as provost at the University of Missouri at Kansas City.

Under his watch, ECU has added more than 500 new faculty positions and experienced a building boom that includes the East Carolina Heart Institute, the Family Medicine Center, the new School of Dentistry, and more than $20 million in new athletic facilities.

Board Vice Chairman David Brody called Ballard a "tremendous asset" to the university and said he believes he has the full support of the board.

"You always want the kind of people that other people want," Brody said. "Dr. Ballard is widely recognized as having done a great job, and that is why a school with the status of Kansas State was after him. We are just glad that he decided to stay at ECU knowing what a great institution we have."

Ballard's teaching and research have centered on leadership in the public sector, research and development and the innovation process, public policy and the utilization of scientific and technical knowledge. He has authored five books and more than 100 professional articles and manuscripts on such topics as the innovation process, energy and natural resources, and managing growth and change, according to the release.

"It is just great news that Steve is staying with us," Bob Greczyn, chair of the ECU Board of Trustees, said. "He is a great fit for this university, and we will need his skills and vision as we move through the challenging months ahead."

Kip Peterson, spokesman for the Kansas Board of Regions which oversees Kansas State University, said he could not comment on the search for a new president until the board had made its decision.
Editorial: Sticking around - Ballard spurs overture, stays at East Carolina

Friday, January 30, 2009

In nearly five years at the helm of East Carolina University, Chancellor Steve Ballard has helped provide stability and vision to the second largest public university in North Carolina. That was his charge when hired, and his leadership has been valuable during a critical period of the school's history.

Now, with East Carolina feeling the pinch of a slowing economy, tough choices loom for Ballard and his leadership team. It is fortunate that Ballard intends to stay in Greenville, a decision he affirmed this week, and the school should be served by his experience and knowledge at this turbulent time.

In June 2004, Ballard became the 10th person to lead East Carolina since its founding in 1907. Few others had arrived with greater expectations. He inherited a school that lacked firm direction and needed a steady hand and clear goals for its improvement. And though he lacked experience as a university chancellor or president, he adapted quickly and became a resourceful leader for his new institution.

During his time here, East Carolina has become the second-largest university in the University of North Carolina system and the fastest growing of the 16 member schools. The school recently opened the East Carolina Heart Institute with Pitt County Memorial Hospital and now boasts one of the premier cardiovascular centers in the country, a tremendous addition to the Brody School of Medicine. A dental school is in the works, and East Carolina continues to attract some of the best and brightest minds to teach and to learn.

It is little wonder then, that Kansas State University would look to Ballard as it sought to hire a new president. The East Carolina chief executive visited Manhattan, Kan., for an interview and was one of three finalists for the position. On Thursday, he withdrew his name from consideration, saying that he continues to enjoy his work in Greenville.

That certainly serves the interests of East Carolina, where a steady hand is preferred. But Ballard may seek different vocabulary to describe his work in the coming weeks because it promises to be anything but enjoyable.

A massive budget shortfall has already forced tough decisions throughout the UNC system and schools are expected to hold down costs and trim expenses wherever possible. With Ballard, East Carolina has a leader with extensive knowledge of the school to make those choices.

Kansas State's loss would appear to be East Carolina's gain in this scenario. The school continues to flourish under Ballard's leadership, and he will be an important part of making sure progress continues through the belt tightening to come.
Symposium studies campus safety issues

By Josh Humphries
The Daily Reflector

Thursday, January 29, 2009

East Carolina University is hosting colleges and universities from across the state for the third annual Higher Educations Safety Symposium to give officials the opportunity to address safety issues on their campuses.

"We are trying to bring together people from the campuses and really take a look at campus safety issues," said ECU Provost Marilyn Sheerer. "Threat assessment is a big issue and after Virginia Tech, those issues became even more apparent."

Sheerer referred to the tragedy at Virginia Tech in April 2007 when Seung-Hui Cho, a student at the school, killed 32 people and wounded many others before committing suicide. The massacre was the deadliest shooting incident by a single gunman in United States history and prompted many college systems to take a look at campus safety measures.

The University of North Carolina System had created a campus safety task force just weeks prior to the shooting and the North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper formed a special task force on campus safety following the shooting.

Bradley Wilson served on the Attorney General’s Campus Security Task Force and gave the keynote address at the symposium Thursday.

"All the campuses do a great job of providing a safe environment where learning and research can take place," Wilson said. "But of course no one can guarantee complete safety."

Wilson said that crime on college campuses accounts for one-sixth of the crime in the state.

"On a UNC campus, you are far safer than you are in the general population," Wilson said.

But that can lead to a lack of connection with what is happening around a campus, he said. Students and professors sometimes believe that they are not part of the real world, but they are, he said. "It is a very complex maze when you start trying to predict what may happen on your campus."

Wilson said that funding campus safety measures is the number one priority of the UNC System Board of Governors for state funding and he advised the audience, about 140 people, to stay in contact with their legislators and push for the funding to provide communications, training and equipment to UNC System police departments.

Over the last several years funding from the state has been used to hire more officers on college campuses and increase salaries to remain competitive, Wilson said.

Four UNC campuses, including ECU, have been accredited nationally and several others are on the way to being accredited.

"It means that North Carolina can say that we understand and are practicing the best practices in the country," Wilson said.

ECU wants to be a leader in campus safety across the state and holds the symposium every year, Sheerer said. Colleges with representatives attending the symposium included UNC-Greensboro, Appalachian State University and UNC-Wilmington as well as officials from as far away as Ohio State University.

Contact Josh Humphries at jhumphries@coxnc.com or (252) 329-9565.
DOROTHY WILLIAMS CORBETT

Dorothy W. Corbett Dorothy Williams Corbett, 77, of Greenville died Thursday, Jan. 29, 2009, in Brunswick Ga. from Leukemia. Dot was born in Washington, N.C. on Jan. 9, 1932, was raised in Wilson, and had lived in Greenville with her husband Wiley since 1964. Dot was a loving mother and dedicated her life to her family and friends. In addition, she had a strong entrepreneurial spirit and a keen mind for business. She graduated in 1953 from UNC-Greensboro with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. In Greenville, she owned and operated a local business, Susan’s Fine Fashions, for over 25 years. In addition, Dot was a Life Master in Duplicate Bridge and competed regularly in local, regional, and national tournaments. She is survived by her loving husband of 55 years, Wiley Corbett Jr.; her son, Wiley Corbett III; her daughter, Susan C Hogan and husband, Dan; and four grandchildren, Ford and Quinn Corbett and Thomas and Courtney Hogan. A private family memorial service was held on Thursday afternoon at Wesley United Methodist Church in St. Simons Island, Ga. At Dot’s request, her body has been donated to the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. The family will be receiving and visiting with friends on Saturday at their home in Greenville, 321 Windsor Road, beginning at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made in her memory to: Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center, 600 Moya Boulevard, Room 178, Greenville, NC 27834

Published in The Daily Reflector on 1/30/2009
ECU chancellor removes name from search

The Associated Press
Comment on this story

MANHATTAN, Kan. - The chancellor at East Carolina University has withdrawn as a finalist for the president's job at Kansas State University.

Steve Ballard's decision Thursday to pull out of the selection process leaves just two finalists vying for the position. Still in the hunt are University of Maine President Robert Kennedy and Kirk Schulz, a vice president at Mississippi State University.

Ballard said in a statement that the interview process reminded him what a "great place" East Carolina University is and how much he enjoys working there.

Kansas State is seeking to replace longtime President Jon Wefald. Wefald plans to retire at the end of the academic year after serving 23 years in the post.

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Album will benefit gynecological cancer causes

SARAH AVERY, Staff Writer
Comment on this story

CHAPEL HILL - A rock 'n' roll fantasy is coming true for two surgeons at UNC Hospitals.

Drs. John Boggess and John Soper, who specialize in female reproductive cancers, are members of a six-person rock band that has signed a record deal with a small New York music label and is working with one of David Bowie's former producers to create an album.

The group, called N.E.D, for No Evidence of Disease, started a little over a year ago as a lark to spice up a scientific meeting. Now the members are scheduled to release a collection of original songs this fall, with proceeds benefiting gynecological cancer causes.

For the doctors, the fulfillment of their dream would be to sell a lot of discs -- not so they can buy fast cars and romp with supermodels, but to raise needed money and awareness for devastating diseases they say get little attention.

"Do you ever see the words gynecologic oncology in print?" asked Boggess. The specialty treats cervical, ovarian and vaginal cancers, which afflicted an estimated 78,490 women in the United States last year. Compared with breast cancer, which hit 182,460 U.S. women last year and raises millions of dollars in research money, Boggess said the gynecological cancers are often overlooked.

The band, he and Soper said, could change that. In addition to winning the record contract, the group has been invited to appear on daytime talk TV, "The Bonnie Hunt Show," and is discussing appearances on the "The Early Show" and "Good Morning America." They're gunning for an audience with Oprah.

It's a long way from their roots. The doctors -- two others are from New York, one from Portland, Ore., and another from Amarillo, Texas -- were patched together, Monkees-like, by a colleague who was arranging entertainment for an annual meeting of cancer doctors. Aside
from Soper and Boggess, the band mates had never met, much less played together. They
rehearsed one night, and performed the next -- an hour's worth of classic rock covers.

The goal, as Soper put it, "was to not suck."

That much was achieved.

"Everybody went crazy," said Marsha Wilson, communications director for the Gynecologic
Cancer Foundation, the advocacy group that will benefit from the band's sales. "They were
really good."

**Old-school rockers**

Most of the band members had played in groups during their younger days. Soper, who is in
his mid 50s, played in bands in high school and college, and as an adult was a member of a
local bluegrass group called Piney Mountain Boys, which split up in 1989 when the guy who
owned the sound system moved away. While in medical school in Oregon, Boggess played in
a band with other med students in the 1980s, earning steady rent money and a small
following. But he gave up musical pursuits to practice medicine.

It didn't take much cajoling to get the surgeons back in form. They played for another
science gathering a few months after their debut, to equally rousing ovations, and were then
encouraged to write their own songs based on their experiences and observations treating
cancer patients.

They came up with more than 20, and whittled the song list to about 10. Signed by Motema,
a small label that generally features jazz musicians, the band will record its album in New
York in April. They're working with a musical coach to sharpen their sound.

"I responded to their writing and the fact that they put their life experiences in their music
and that they were trying to make the world a better place," said Jana Herzen, founder and
president of Motema. "I think of music as food for the soul, and the doctors really are
coming from this place."

Next week, the group returns to its origins and plays at the annual meeting of the Society of
Gynecologic Oncologists, in San Antonio. After a full day of presentations about sentinel node
biopsies and chemo-response assays, just about anything with a back beat might offer relief.
But N.E.D. aims to be more than background noise, and in the process, give voice to
illnesses that have for too long been quiet killers.

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- Listen to part of N.E.D.'s "False Pretenses" on Facebook

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